



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

14 OCTOBER 2020

## (U) CALIFORNIA

### (U) Irvine – Man Faces Federal Charges of Setting Fire to Unmarked Santa Monica Police Vehicle

(U) An Irvine man was taken into federal custody Tuesday for allegedly setting fire to a Santa Monica Police Department vehicle during recent civil unrest. Nathan Wilson, 27, was charged in a federal criminal complaint after being linked to the 31 May fire that destroyed an unmarked Santa Monica police car, according to the Department of Justice. Wilson was arrested on 9 October after he was found hiding in a mattress box spring in the bedroom of his Irvine home, where authorities say they also recovered clothes that appeared to match those seen in photos taken near the destroyed police car.

SOURCE: 13 October 2020, [CBS Los Angeles](#)

### (U) Oakland – East Bay Man Convicted of Mailing Bombs to Police in Revenge Plot

(U) After deliberating for two days, a federal jury convicted an East Bay man of mailing bombs to two law enforcement officers he believed had unduly harassed him, prosecutors said. Ross Gordon Laverty, 59, of Oakland, was convicted of mailing bombs to a correctional officer and a retired policeman. Both the bombs exploded and injured those who opened them, but neither victim was Laverty's intended target, according to authorities. Laverty was linked through DNA to the bombs, which prosecutors said had a remarkably similar design.

SOURCE: 13 October 2020, [Mercury News](#)

## (U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

### (U) Texas – CBP Intercepts Four Human Smuggling Cases at Border Checkpoints

(U) Edinburg – Over the weekend, US Border Patrol agents successfully halted four human smuggling cases at the Falfurrias and Javier Vega Jr. Border Patrol Checkpoints. On Saturday evening, agents in Kingsville referred a Ford Flex to secondary inspection after a Border Patrol K-9 alerted to the vehicle. Agents discovered a Salvadoran national hidden on the floor of the vehicle. During processing, record checks revealed that the smuggled alien was a confirmed Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang member. On Monday, agents at the Falfurrias Checkpoint removed a Salvadoran and two Mexican nationals hidden in the trunk of a Nissan Maxima. Additionally, Falfurrias agents encountered a tractor-trailer used in an attempt to smuggle 30 illegal immigrants. A convicted sex offender was apprehended in a separate incident while trying to enter the US illegally.

SOURCE: 13 October 2020, [CBP](#)

## (U) NATIONAL

### (U) Mississippi – Authorities Seize 37-Pounds of Methamphetamine Found in Driver's Spare Tire

(U) Forest – Local law enforcement officers who pulled a driver over for a traffic violation in Mississippi allegedly discovered about 37-pounds of methamphetamine hidden inside a spare tire stashed in the vehicle. Police stopped a pickup truck along an interstate near Flowood early this month after spotting it driving in a "careless manner." An officer conducting the stop, a deputy discovered a tire in the bed of the truck which contained 37.5-pounds of methamphetamine worth an estimated street value of \$350K.

SOURCE: 13 October 2020, [AP](#)

**(U) Virginia – Online Voter Registration System Down Impacting Early In-Person Voting**

(U) Chester – A cut fiber cable has brought down Virginia's online voter registration system on Tuesday, the last day that residents across the commonwealth can register to vote in November's election. Problems with the online voter registration were reported earlier Tuesday morning, leaving people looking to register to vote online with a website declaring that a "network outage" had taken the system down. The cut fiber was impacting data circuits and virtual private network (VPN) connectivity for multiple Commonwealth agencies, affecting the Department's citizen portal along with local registrar's offices across the Commonwealth. The severed cable has also impacted some of the in-person absentee voting that's currently taking place.

SOURCE: 13 October 2020, [DCist](#)

**(U) Virginia – Police Link Random Killings in Northern Virginia to MS-13**

(U) Falls Church – Police in northern Virginia announced charges Tuesday against a dozen alleged members and associates of the MS-13 street gang for four separate slayings in 2019, including three killings that authorities say were committed at random by gang members seeking to gain status within the organization. At a news conference Tuesday in Woodbridge, Prince William County Police Acting Chief said the arrests have effectively decimated the "Sitios" clique of MS-13. Four additional individuals were arrested on drug charges related to what police said was a large-scale trafficking operation run by the Sitios clique to bring cocaine from New York into Virginia.

SOURCE: 13 October 2020, [AP](#)

**(U) Virginia – Governor of Virginia Discussed as Possible Target of Michigan Conspirators**

(U) Richmond – The Governor of Virginia was discussed as a possible target by members of an anti-government group charged last week with plotting to kidnap the Michigan governor, the FBI said on Tuesday. During a hearing in Grand Rapids, Michigan, an FBI agent said that the Virginia governor and other officials were targeted because of their aggressive lockdown orders to restrict the spread of COVID-19. Some of the suspects held a meeting in Dublin, Ohio, several months ago where they "discussed possible targets" for "taking a sitting governor." Last week, 13 men accused of involvement in the alleged plot were charged with a variety of state and federal crimes including terrorism, conspiracy, and weapons possession.

SOURCE: 13 October 2020, [New York Times](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL**

**(U) Mali – Suspected Jihadists Kill 25 in Central Mali Attacks**

(U) Bamako – Suspected Islamist militants killed 25 people including 13 soldiers in multiple attacks in central Mali, burning down an army base and ambushing troops sent as reinforcements, the army and local authorities reported on Tuesday. The attacks were the deadliest since the 18 August military coup that overthrew President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. Nine soldiers were killed in the first attack that took place overnight against a base in Sokoura near the border with Burkina Faso, an army statement said.

SOURCE: 13 October 2020, [Reuters](#)

**(U) Mexico – Authorities Freeze 1,352 Alleged Criminal Accounts in Capital**

(U) Mexico City – Police and Mexico's federal anti-money laundering agency said Tuesday they have frozen 1,352 bank accounts that allegedly moved about \$125 million on behalf of 14 criminal gangs, including some of Mexico's biggest drug cartels. While Mexico City officials have long denied that cartels operate in the capital, they acknowledge that cartel members come and go, and the banks concentrated in the city play a major role in laundering money for the gangs.

SOURCE: 13 October 2020, [AP](#)

## UNCLASSIFIED

### **(U) Somalia – Senior Al-Shabaab Leader, 10 Militants Killed During Security Operation**

(U) Lower Shabelle – At least 11 al-Shabaab militants were killed on Tuesday by the Somali National Army in a security operation in the southern region of Lower Shabelle, a military officer said on Tuesday. The operation began when the army received intelligence that the militants set up secret prisons in the outskirts of Barire town and the forces advanced targeting those areas.

SOURCE: 14 October 2020, [The Nation](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

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